

## Palestinian spokeswoman heads for Gulf

AMMAN (AP) — Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi headed for Qatar Sunday for talks on the Middle East peace process and Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories. The visit, the second by a Palestinian official to Doha in a week, underscores efforts by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to rehabilitate itself by mainstream Arab politics. On Dec. 26 a PLO delegation headed by Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, held talks with Qatar's ruler Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani on the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process. The PLO team also held similar talks with Oman leaders. Dr. Ashrawi crossed the Jordan River bridge from the occupied territories and headed for Doha on a commercial flight that departed Amman at 1 p.m. (1000 GMT). She refused to give any statement to the press. Madi Al Ahmad, a spokesman for the Palestinian delegation in Amman, said Dr. Ashrawi would hold talks with Qatar's emir on "the Palestinian standpoints on the peace process." He did not elaborate. Mr. Ahmad said during her five-day stay, Dr. Ashrawi also would discuss Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of 415 Palestinians to South Lebanon.

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## Bush: No unilateral action in Bosnia

PARIS (R) — U.S. President George Bush Sunday ruled out any unilateral intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina, saying the United States would not do anything to endanger United Nations troops on the ground there. Speaking to journalists after talks with French President François Mitterrand, Mr. Bush said he hoped the U.N. Security Council could quickly approve a resolution enforcing a ban on flights over Bosnia but said there were still some diplomatic problems. Mr. Bush said: "We are very sensitive to the fact that other countries have troops on the ground and we would not precipitously on a unilateral basis do anything that would put these troops in danger." France and Britain have agreed in principle on the need to enforce the ban on flights but want to avoid retaliation against their U.N. troops on the ground. The United States has no peace-keeping troops in Bosnia.

Bosnians wary of peace plan, page 8

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

## Regent visits air force base

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday visited a Royal Jordanian Air Force base, and was briefed on the duties and tasks assigned to the base. Prince Hassan stressed the importance of the best use of available resources. Prince Hassan also visited an air defence bases. The Crown Prince was accompanied on the visit by His Royal Highness Prince Rashed Ben Al Has-

## Yemen army hunts militant

SANA (R) — Army units with tanks ringed mountainous area of Yemen Sunday in a search for a Muslim militant suspected of an assassination attempt and bombings in Aden, security sources said. They are hunting Tareq Ben Nasser Ben Hussein Al Fadhl in the Al Maraqqa mountains, north of Iban province 70 kilometres east of Aden, the sources said. An Interior Ministry official told Reuters Fadhl was a suspect in an assassination attempt on a Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) member and bombings in two hotels in Aden. Fadhl, 26, is the son of the last sultan of Iban before former South Yemen achieved independence from Britain in 1967.

## Arafat attends PLO-Hamas talks

KHARTOUM (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Sunday attended reconciliation talks between his Fatah group and its rival Muslim fundamentalist Hamas organisation. The participants in the talks refused to speak to reporters after the second meeting ended. A third meeting was expected Sunday night. Hassan Turabi, an Islamic politician who is believed to be the power behind the presidency in Sudan, is mediating the talks which started Saturday night. Dr. Turabi is trying to unite the Palestinian ranks and discuss how to confront Israel after the expulsion of 415 Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza. The Fatah delegation is led by Sati Zanoon, member of the Fatah bureau, while the Hamas group is headed by Musa Abu Marzouk, head of Hamas's political office.

## Israel to extradite Eddie Antar

TEL AVIV (AP) — Justice Minister David Libai signed an order Sunday extraditing Eddie Antar to face charges he defrauded investors in his Crazy Eddie Inc. electronics chain, a justice ministry statement said. Mr. Antar, who had declared his willingness Thursday to return to the United States, would leave in the next few days, the statement said. Mr. Antar had disappeared in February 1990 and had evaded the law until his capture in Israel in June. He had been living in Israel under an assumed name. Mr. Antar was indicted, along with some family members, on charges of defrauding investors by falsifying sales and profit records of the New Jersey-based Crazy Eddie chain, which he founded.

## Israeli police fire on orthodox protesters

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police fired rubber bullets and teargas Sunday at thousands of ultra-orthodox Jews demonstrating against archaeological excavations. The protesters were angry the Israel antiquities authority had removed bones from a 7th century burial cave in the Mamilla neighbourhood just outside the walls of Jerusalem's Old City. Protesters said the bones were of Jews. Archaeologists called it a Christian grave. The three-year excavation is clearing the way for a luxury apartment complex and shopping mall. Border police fired rubber bullets and teargas at throngs of black frocked protesters who buried cement blocks, rocks and empty bottles in the ultra-orthodox Mea Shearim neighbourhood. Three policemen were injured but spokesman Shmuel Ben-Rubin said police should not have fired rubber bullets at the Jewish demonstrators: "It was a mistake in judgement by the commander there."

## House panel assails bureaucracy, but offers support for draft budget

By Ayman Al Safadi and Masa Aloul  
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Poverty, unemployment, fair allocation of funds, administrative reforms and abuse of office were the major issues that members of the Lower House of Parliament tackled Sunday in speeches that observers saw as the springboards for deputies' electoral campaigns. Beginning their debate on the

draft budget for 1993, few deputies attempted to grapple with economic issues and policies presented by the government in its proposed budget, preferring in

See page 3 excerpts from deputies' speeches

to submit demands that have little chance of being met in light of the constitutional constraints against increasing expenditures earmarked in the

budget. Deputies began to take the floor after the House was bogged down for three hours in what one deputy described as "a futile" argument on the legality of presenting the deputies' demands during their comments on the draft budget.

The House was also divided on whether to put to vote a motion for postponing debate of the budget in light of the failure of

(Continued on page 5)

## Masri: Policy curbs investment

AMMAN DEPUTY and former Prime Minister Taher Al Masri said Sunday the government's monetary policy was restraining investment and denying Jordan the opportunity to benefit from the abundant money supply in the market.

In his well-prepared comments on the draft budget for 1993, Mr. Masri said the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) had failed to utilise available economic tools to activate the economy. He particularly criticised the CBJ for the imposition of a ceiling on commercial banks' credits, limiting rediscount rates and failure to open market operations in controlling the money supply.

Mr. Masri said the CBJ moves drove up the cost of capital for investors lending many investment ventures unfeasible and denying Jordan ultimate utilisation of the finances available in the market.

He called on the government to invest its money reserves in economically feasible investment projects.

Mr. Masri also criticised the CBJ for limiting the rediscount rate — interest on CBJ loans to commercial banks — to 8.5 per cent since 1989 which meant that commercial banks, which have enough liquidity, do not borrow from the CBJ but rather deposit extra funds at the CBJ for an annual interest rate of four per cent.

## Israelis terrorise exiled Palestinians

MARI AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Artillery shells fired by Israel and its surrogate militia crashed around a camp housing 415 Palestinian evictees in southeast Lebanon overnight. Security sources said Sunday there were no casualties.

They said Israeli troops and militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) unleashed 10 rounds of 66-millimetre mortar fire at 9:30 p.m. (1930 GMT) Saturday that landed 500 to 1,000 metres from the evictees' camp.

In Israel, the army said its artillery lobbed a number of shells into south Lebanon after "suspicious figures" moved towards Israel's self-styled "security zone" in south Lebanon.

"There was panic. We jumped out of our tents and watched the shells falling around us and were afraid one would land among us," said evictee Mahmoud Zahhar, head of the camp's medical committee.

He said shrapnel flew above the camp, but none of the 63 tents was hit.

Dr. Zahhar said the targeted area was apparently the mountainous route through which sympathetic villagers had been smuggling food to the expelled Palestinians.

(Continued on page 5)

## Islamist deputy urges convening of conference

CONTROVERSIAL Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Fuad Khalafat told the Lower House Sunday that the International Monetary Fund and its policies had become "a fate and eternity for Jordan" and called for the convening of a "national conference for economic salvation" to study the causes of economic deterioration and means to address them.

In a fiery speech on the draft budget for 1993, Mr. Khalafat called for involving citizens in the economic reform programme and a government report on the reality of the economic situation in the Kingdom.

In a glittering Kremlin ceremony, the two leaders effectively passed on humanity's hopes for a safer world to Mr. Clinton. "I hope he will take over the baton that was given to him grace by President Bush," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Mr. Bush, effectively ending his four-year turn on the world stage, said Russia's first democratically elected leader would enjoy working with the new U.S. president. Mr. Bush leaves office in 17 days.

"It means a future far more free from fear," Mr. Bush said

(Continued on page 5)

1 killed, 11 injured in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers ran into a stone-throwing Palestinian crowd in the occupied Gaza Strip Sunday, shot an 18-year-old Palestinian to death and fled, abandoning their jeep. Israeli Radio said:

Yasser Al Sufi, 18, was the first Palestinian uprising fatality of 1993, and the 1,000th killed by Israeli soldiers or civilians during the five-year uprising against Israeli occupation.

Sufi was shot in the head in the Rafah refugee camp, and 11 other Palestinians were hospitalized, Arab reporters and U.N. officials said.

Also in Rafah, masked men shot and killed a 60-year-old man accused of collaborating with the Israeli authorities, Arab reports said. The army confirmed the death.

The killings happened as the army lifted a two-day blanket curfew on the Gaza Strip, imposed to prevent violence on Jan. 25, the 25th anniversary of the founding of Fatah.

A makeshift bomb exploded in the baggage hold of an Israeli bus outside Tel Aviv, causing no injuries, police said.

The bus was taking at least 40 passengers to occupied Jerusalem from the northern port city of Haifa.

In a separate incident, police said the body of a Jewish man was apparently killed by Arabs who found in the stairwell of an apartment building in the heart of Jewish West Jerusalem.

"We're certainly checking the possibility it was nationalist, which looks reasonable to us," Police Commissioner Yaakov Turner told Israel Radio. He refused to give further details.

The radio said the man had been stabbed and bludgeoned to death.

In Holon near Tel Aviv, attackers slashed the throat of a 26-year-old Jew. Police arrested several Arab suspects but the motive was unclear. The victim was in hospital seriously injured.

Meanwhile, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the U.S.-backed peace talks in Washington complained that a soldier bit him on Saturday night.

Freih Abu Medein, a lawyer, said he was stopped by an army patrol in Gaza City during the curfew. He said that when he got out of his car, a soldier slapped him.

Diplomats said Gulf Arabs were trying to be cautious in their approach to the crisis but there were no apparent reconciliation moves except Syria's initiative to ease Iran's relations not only with its Gulf neighbours but with Egypt.

(Continued on page 5)

## Regent calls for comprehensive approach to Mideast resources

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday met with a high-level Russian delegation and reviewed the Middle East peace process and Jordanian-Russian relations and emphasised need to bring about broader regional and international cooperation in the Middle East.

The Regent also renewed a call for benefiting from the experience of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in dealing with the economic, political and security issues facing the Middle East.

Prince Hassan said such an approach to the Middle East problem should be based on a

comprehensive outlook, combining financial and economic resources with demographic resources in a manner that would consolidate ethnic and cultural understanding,

(Continued on page 5)

## Salary hike hinges on boost in revenue

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Finance Basel Jardaneh said Sunday the government would not raise the salaries of public sector employees if the extra expenditure meant an increased deficit in the 1993 budget.

"We will not allow an increased deficit but will approve the raise if it was possible to arrange within the projected deficit," Mr. Jardaneh told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

This, the Regent said, will

(Continued on page 5)

## Bush and Yeltsin sign sweeping arms accord

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin Sunday signed a historic nuclear missile-reduction treaty that crowned Mr. Bush's four years of high-stakes diplomacy. Mr. Yeltsin proposed an early summit with president-elect Bill Clinton.

In a glittering Kremlin ceremony, the two leaders effectively passed on humanity's hopes for a safer world to Mr. Clinton. "I hope he will take over the baton that was given to him grace by President Bush," Mr. Yeltsin said.

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## Protests wreck Ghali visit to Somalia

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Stone-throwing Somalis screaming "Boutros-Ghali go home" laid siege to the headquarters of the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) Sunday and turned a visit by the secretary-general into a shambles.

A baying mob of several hundred protesters hammered at the gates of the compound in central Mogadishu, threw up barricades to prevent anyone entering or leaving and forced Dr. Ghali to scrap a planned visit to the mission.

Three of the U.N. chief's aides, including Under-Secretary for Political Affairs James Jonah, and the 1,000th killed by Israeli soldiers or civilians during the five-year uprising against Israeli occupation.

Sufi was shot in the head in the Rafah refugee camp, and 11 other Palestinians were hospitalized, Arab reporters and U.N. officials said.

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"We're certainly checking the possibility it was nationalist, which looks reasonable to us," Police Commissioner Yaakov Turner told Israel Radio. He refused to give further details.

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Meanwhile, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the U.S.-backed peace talks in Washington complained that a soldier bit him on Saturday night.

Freih Abu Medein, a lawyer, said he was stopped by an army patrol in Gaza City during the curfew. He said that when he got out of his car, a soldier slapped him.

Diplomats said Gulf Arabs were trying to be cautious in their approach to the crisis but there were no apparent reconciliation moves except Syria's initiative to ease Iran's relations not only with its Gulf neighbours but with Egypt.

(Continued on page 5)

A group of Somalis hold a poster during a protest march Sunday against U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali's visit to Somalia (AFP photo)

Two shots rang out when a Somali guard in the UNOSOM compound fired his Kalashnikov to scare back a mob that tried to surge in behind two Reuter reporters. Several journalists were attacked but none was badly hurt.

Dr. Ghali, who was visiting Mogadishu for just three hours, stayed in the U.S. embassy, headquarters of the U.S.-led task force in Somalia, before heading for the airport in a helicopter and afterwards.

But the visit was a dismal start to Dr. Ghali's efforts to forge peace in anarchic Somalia. His trip had already been overshadowed by the killing of a British U.N. aid worker on Saturday in the southern port of Kismayu

fly off to neighbouring Djibouti.

"You understand now why the work of a U.N. secretary-general is an impossible job," he joked afterwards.

But the visit was a dismal start to American commanders had decided to halt the marching orders of 4,000 soldiers scheduled to be shipped to Somalia.

That would reduce the U.S. commitment from the 28,000 troops the Defence Department originally said it would send.

He told Reuters he had wanted to wade in among the crowds to talk to them. But Lieutenant-General Robert Johnston, commander of the U.S.-led task force, had said no.

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## Bitterness grows in Khan Yunis over Israeli reprisals

By Karin Laub  
The Associated Press

**KHAN YUNIS**, occupied Gaza Strip — Tharwat Abu Tiyur still believes peace with Israel is possible, even after soldiers killed his 11-year-old daughter, Ranna, as she went to buy milk for her baby brother.

But the taxidriver warns that peace must come quickly. Already, he says, too much hatred has been fanned in this refugee camp by Israeli reprisals for the slayings of six security troopers by Muslim activists last month.

"Ranna's death has created a feeling of revenge among my children," said Mr. Abu Tiyur, 59. "But if there is peace, they will forget about it."

The camp and adjacent town of Khan Yunis bore the brunt of the army's crackdown last month. The Israeli human rights group Btselem charged Thursday that army abuses of rights in Khan Yunis were among the worst during the five-year-old Palestinian revolt against Israeli occupation.

The 120,000 residents in the camp and town were kept indoors by 17 days of curfew. Troops shot and killed 11 people, including Ranna and three other children. Btselem added troops also wounded more than 100 people, but did not specify whether they were shot.

Most were killed as Palestinians protested the expulsion of 415 of their people accused of being members of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups. The groups are believed responsible for the killing of the Israeli troopers. Twenty-three of the expelled were from Khan Yunis.

Btselem said Ranna was killed when troops opened fire to disperse a demonstration in an alleyway. Ranna was walking down the street on her way to a market.

Israel justified the expulsions as an attempt to save the

Middle East peace talks. It argued that Muslim extremists opposed to the negotiations had become too powerful and posed a threat to both Israelis and Palestinian moderates.

Dr. Salah Rantisi, a Khan Yunis physician whose brother Abdil Azziz Rantisi was exiled as a founder of Hamas, said Israel's plans were backfiring.

"Hamas will recover quickly," said Dr. Rantisi, 31. "As a result of the expulsions, more and more people are supporting Hamas."

Dr. Rantisi said 50 per cent of Gazans and 40 per cent of Palestinians on the West Bank identify with Hamas' goals of destroying Israel and setting up an Islamic state of Palestine.

But the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Hamas' chief rival for the loyalty of Palestinians in the occupied lands, contends that no more than 20 per cent support the radical Islamic movement.

The figures are impossible to prove. In the Khan Yunis camp, walls are spray-painted with Hamas slogans and pictures of the camp's expelled prayer leader, Sheikh Ahmad Nimer Hamdan, are pasted everywhere.

On the other hand, the main shopping street in Khan Yunis town is festooned with four bedsheet-sized Palestinian flags, an indication of support for the PLO and its backing of Israel.

Officials of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which aids Palestinian refugees, estimate Gaza lost about \$2 million in income a day during the closure. The agency began distributing rice, cooking oil, sugar and flour throughout the strip to make up for scarcities.

Israel, which for years blocked development in the occupied territories, is beginning to understand the link between poverty and Muslim fundamentalism.

General Danny Rothschild, who coordinates government policy in the occupied lands, recently urged the cabinet to increase investment in the West Bank and Gaza.

"When the average person cannot ensure his livelihood, he starts looking for alternatives offered by extreme Islam," Gen. Rothschild said.

"We may have to do a lot more for the people in the territories than hold peace talks."

year from Iran and private Arab benefactors.

At the Rahmech Mosque in the Khan Yunis camp, youngsters can play table tennis, join the soccer team, check out videos or attend Koran school. Other mosques offer computer training and scholarships for universities in Sudan and Yemen.

A PLO supporter, who would give his name only as Zakaria, said Hamas gives \$200 monthly stipends to its activists. The PLO cannot compete, having lost much of its Arab financing after it supported Iraq during the Gulf war.

Now, however, the press suddenly feels free to criticise the "Islamist" current that is, those people who seek political and social change under the banner of Islam. The home news pages, features and opinion pages are full of articles and letters from readers directly attacking the Islamists.

No longer is criticism directed solely at the more extreme elements, who were categorised as "terrorists" by journalists and government officials alike. Now the media have begun taking on the ideologies of the mainstream Islamist movement, including sheikhs preaching militant Islam.

Such overt and fearless criticism of the Islamist trend has not been seen in the Egyptian press since the days of the Muslim Brotherhood's campaign of terror during the presidency of Gamal Abdul Nasser, some 30 years ago.

Until a week ago, Egypt's top journalists and writers' limited their attack to the extremists, with calls to the government to take tougher action. But since the weekend the mood has changed. Not only the extremists, but the established clergy, have been targeted with challenges to condemn the violence of some of the more extreme Islamist groups.

In the semi-official daily Al Ahram, a veteran liberal politician, Tharwat Abaza, named the Muslim Brotherhood leaders, including MPs, as being behind the terror campaign that left six policemen dead in three months.

## Islamists under fire in Egypt

The Independent



A group of Somalis run during a protest march Sunday against U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, who was visiting Mogadishu (AFP photo)

## UNICEF officer killed in Kismayu

**MOGADISHU** (R) — A British aid worker for the United Nations who was killed in Somalia Saturday was shot in the back several times by his own security guards after telling them he was cutting their wages, a U.S. military spokesman said.

Details of how Sean Devereux, a 28-year-old employee of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), was killed emerged as U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali flew into the Somali capital Mogadishu Sunday for a three-hour visit.

Mr. Devereux's death was the first murder of a foreigner in Somalia since the arrival on Dec. 9 of U.S.-led troops to protect food aid from looters and gunmen. It underlined a continuing danger for relief workers despite the presence of the task force.

Marine Colonel Fred Peck said Mr. Devereux was shot by one or more of his guards within UNICEF compound in the southern port of Kismayo, 380 kilometres south of Mogadishu.

Most foreign aid workers have to rely on the local "protection racket" in which freelance Somali gunmen charge extortionist fees for their services.

Mr. Devereux was the UNICEF officer in charge at Kismayo.

"(He) told his security force that he was no longer going to pay them inflated wages," Col. Peck said. "As he was leaving after making this announcement he was shot in the back several times and killed."

It was not clear whether the guards had been captured.

Col. Peck said he did not see how the presence of U.S. and Belgian troops, who secured Kismayo on Dec. 20, could have prevented the incident.

"This is an indication of the general methods over the last two years in Somalia where they settle disputes with a gun," said Col. Peck.

Exortion of relief agencies by gunmen, looting of relief supplies and protection rackets have been rife throughout central and southern Somalia's famine belt, where more than 300,000 people have died of starvation.

A UNICEF official in Mogadishu said the agency had sent a representative down to Kismayo to investigate the killing.

## Media circus pulls out its pylons from Somalia scene

By Mark Fritz  
The Associated Press

**MOGADISHU** — The hiss you hear is the sound of air going out of a story. With President George Bush's departure, the American media army that brought heat and light to this country is scaling down, leaving Somalia to wonder if its 15 minutes of fame have ticked away.

Drivers who once demanded \$100 a day for a trip to the airport are lucky to get \$20. Newly unemployed interpreters are canvassing vainly for new customers. Reporters no longer spread blankets in packed hotel lobbies.

Cable News Network (CNN) is cutting its staff to 20, from a peak of 43.

The cost of coverage probably will run the all-news network about \$2 million for December, said Robert Wiener, executive producer for CNN's Somalia bureau.

The three major American non-cable networks — ABC, NBC and CBS — also are scaling back and are discussing using CNN's transmission facilities, he said.

"There's other news in the world, and this is not necessarily a page one story any more," he said. "The story has cost a fortune for all the networks."

The Associated Press, which has maintained a staff in Somalia without a break since the summer, has five reporters and four photographers in the country. It does not plan a major reduction.

In the semi-official daily Al Ahram, a veteran liberal politician, Tharwat Abaza, named the Muslim Brotherhood leaders, including MPs, as being behind the terror campaign that left six policemen dead in three months.

Thousands starved as warlords fought over territory and looters ran riot.

Then Mr. Bush announced he would send U.S. troops to ensure safe aid deliveries.

Reporters flooded in before the first Marines were deployed Dec. 9. They paid exorbitant prices for cars, guards and interpreters, and took every room in what for at least two weeks was Mogadishu's only hotel. Satellite dishes sprouted like mushrooms.

"It was crazy," said Mohamad Jirdeh Hussein, 47, who opened the first hotel, a shabby, three-storey establishment with 58 rooms that had been closed for more than a year.

He called it the "Sababi (Journalist) Hotel until Mr. Bush left." Mr. Hussein had reporters sleeping in a large public room on the ground floor, in ballways and on the roof, all of them charged as much as those with rooms: \$85 a night.

The hotel stationery described a place of "comfort, safety, luxury, for business or discreet weekends." None of the journalists, packed one on top of another in the hotel's hot, stuffy rooms, enjoyed a "discreet weekend."

"I made a lot of money," Mr. Hussein admitted.

His occupancy is off 20 percent now, but Mr. Hussein insists the media blast woke up this "dangerous" town and allowed people to poke their heads outside.

"They really brought a semblance of normalcy," he said. "They were driving at night, going to the seaport, the airport, setting up lights everywhere."

"Kids carrying guns got jobs

## Archaeologist helps find important sculpture in Syria

**CHICAGO** (AP) — A 4,300-year-old clay horse unearthed in Syria last fall by a University of Chicago expedition proves domestic horses existed in the area earlier than previously believed, an anthropologist says.

"This is a very important discovery because it shows that the domestic horse was more important in the ancient near east than some scholars have thought," said Juris Zarins, an anthropologist professor at Southwest Missouri State University.

Horses were essential to the development of empires, said Mr. Zarins, who studies the role of horses in civilisation. Horses moved chariots, sped transportation and empowered armies, he said.

The figurine, about 7.5 centimetre high and about 5 centimetre across, was dug from a trench at Tell Al Sweyhat, an archaeological site in the desert

about 320 kilometres northeast of Damascus.

The figurine probably dates from 2300 B.C., about 500 years earlier than domestic horses were thought to have existed there, said Thomas Holland, an archaeologist and researcher with the University's Oriental Institute who led the five-person team.

"We can see from the care that was obviously taken in making the horse that the animal was well regarded," he said Friday.

The figurine's mane and ears are molded with strips of clay. It appears to signify a domestic horse because of a hole in its muzzle, where a ring would be placed for reins.

The ancient community of Tell Al Sweyhat was in the Upper Mesopotamian region, home of some of the world's early empires.

Historians believe the city was destroyed in an attack about 2200 B.C.

## Journalists held for reporting Algerian attack

**ALGIERS** (AP) — Police detained the editor and three journalists of a top Algerian daily Sunday after the newspaper was suspended for reporting the slaying of five police officers before the information was officially released.

Omar Belhouchet, editor of the French-language *Al Watan*, and journalists Omar Berbiche, Tayeb Belghith and Ahmad Aneri were taken into custody Saturday night after authorities indefinitely suspended the paper's right to publish.

The newspaper's other employees, who announced the detention in a communiqué, demanded the immediate release of the press and all democratic forces to denounce this arbitrary, illegal and scandalous incarceration.

Authorities did not immediately confirm the detention. *Al Watan's* suspension by the Minis-

try of Communications and Culture was reported Saturday by state radio.

*Al Watan* reported Saturday that five police officers had their throats cut and were killed by bandits raiding a police station at Laghouat, 400 kilometres south of Algiers.

The attackers, presumably Islamic extremists, stole four machine-pistols and assault rifles, the paper said. Officials have not confirmed the information, but *Al Watan* has a good reputation for accuracy.

In announcing the suspension, the ministry said that the report had "prematurely revealed information that seriously undermined an investigation of a criminal action" at an installation run by the security forces.

The attack ranks among the bloodiest in the Muslim fundamentalist campaign to destabilise the country.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley ..... 7 / 17

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 5, Ajqa 17, Humidity: Amman 62 per cent, Ajqa 43 per cent.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Abdil Kader Al Lala ..... 696048

Dr. Walid Al Masi ..... 675463

Dr. Shabnam Eman ..... 768747

Dr. Nidal Al Dabbagh ..... 627195

Dr. Firdausy ..... 661912

Dr. Faridah ..... 778336

Dr. Asmaa ..... 637653

Dr. Nafisa ..... 637652

Dr. Salma ..... 637630

Yacoub ..... 644045

Shamsiyan ..... 637660

Nairouh ..... 623672

Najib ..... 847632

Min./Max. temp. .... 3 / 12

Aqaba ..... 8 / 20

Deserts ..... 1 / 14

Terrassa Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel: 623541

Armenian Church Tel: 652266. Tel: 626543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel: 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel: 775261

St. Ephrem Church Tel: 771751

Amman International Church Tel: 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 81252

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel: 623624, 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel: 675691

Churches ..... 621111

Faith ..... 621111

(Sunrise) Duna ..... 621111

Dhahr ..... 621111

## Deputies speak of people's needs

The following are extracts from speeches made by Lower House of Parliament members Sunday on the fiscal budget and their constituents' needs:

**Deputy Taher Al Masri**  
Amman

Mr. Masri tackled the monetary and financial policies in Jordan under three headings: Control of credit facilities offered by the banks to the public, the rate of interest the central bank charges commercial banks — the discount rate, and the open market operations.

Referring to the credit facilities, the deputy said while banks in Jordan have lowered the interest given to the public on their deposits to 5.5 per cent annually, they continue to charge 12 per cent interest on loans for investments. He criticised the government for the high rates and said this was not conducive to investments.

Mr. Masri suggested that the



government direct banks in Jordan to invest the surplus liquidity in their possession towards successful economic projects by granting loans at lower interest rates.

With regard to the fixed re-discount rates, he said that the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has fixed the rates of re-discount on loans given to Jordanian banks

at 8.5 per cent. But banks are not borrowing from the CBJ since they have a surplus of liquidity. Commercial banks are actually lending the CBJ money at a four percent rate which cancels out the role of the CBJ as bank of banks.

Mr. Masri suggested the CBJ should fix the re-discount rate at a lower figure so that it can play a role in controlling the level of liquidity in the Jordanian market. Mr. Masri referred to open market operations by noting that the CBJ should issue government bonds when it is necessary to absorb the surplus liquidity in the market but ought to deal with insufficient liquidity in the market by pumping cash through buying securities available with the Jordanian banks.

The PSD called on Jordanians wishing to acquire a licence for firearms to do so before the end of the current month. It said that those who possess firearms that are banned in Jordan should hand them over to the PSD offices before the end of January against a receipt acknowledging the type and number of weapons given up.

The PSD statement warned that by February 1, 1993 any person found to be in possession of the banned arms will be subject to legal procedures in accordance with Article 11 of a 1952 law. The law stipulates that any person who is found to have manufactured, imported, possessed or transported banned firearms without a licence will be punished by execution. The law also states that any person who is found to have made or imported or exported or tried to export firearms or ammunition without a licence could be imprisoned for up to 15 years with hard labour.

The PSD called on those holding former licences for firearms which are allowed in the country namely pistols and hunting guns to call at police stations so that they can be issued new licences.

## Deadline set for licensing of firearms

## Phosphate exports register increase

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) has issued a set of regulations concerning the licensing of firearms based on regulations issued last month by the Ministry of Interior.

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The company's export reports during 1992 revealed that Jordanian phosphate was sold to New

Zealand and Austria for the first time in many years and that exports to Australia, the Netherlands and Malaysia increased noticeably in 1992 compared with previous years.

The JPMC, said Mr. Taher, exported nearly 20,000 tonnes of phosphate to Russia in part payment of Jordanian debts to Moscow compared to 242,000 tonnes of phosphate in the previous year.

Overall phosphate production in 1992 amounted to 5.2 million tonnes, registering an increase of 400,000 tonnes over the 1991 production, said Mr. Taher.

Referring to fertilisers trade, he said, that Jordan's exports of ammonium phosphate and aluminium fluoride fertiliser compound amounted to the same quantities of the previous year. Mr. Taher also said Jordan's exports of phosphoric acid increased noticeably over the previous year but no figures were provided.

Mr. Mubaiyed noted that the increased production over the past five years has reduced the phosphate reserves at Hassa and Wadi Al Ajib and this has prompted the company to explore new areas for phosphate that can be produced and exported.

Mining phosphate at the Shidieh site is relatively new, but by the end of 1995, the total production from the Shidieh mines alone could reach 2.7 million tonnes, said Mr. Mubaiyed. He added that production increases at Shidieh will counteract the decline in mining at Hassa and Wadi Al Ajib until the year 1995.

Referring to marketing problems, he said that the lack of sufficient vessels to transport phosphate from Aqaba is a continuing problem. Another difficulty, he said, is the insufficiency of spare parts which the company requires for machinery at the production site.

Many shipping companies have suspended their operations at Aqaba and others are charging high freight, again making it less attractive for traders.

— Dozens of Iraqi companies operating out of Jordan have closed shop and moved to Turkey and Iran, whose ports offer less exposure to the overzealous enforcers of the embargo.

— A significant part of Iraq's needs are met through barter across the Turkish and Iranian borders. Such barters are no longer possible through Jordan.

— Another major reason for the decline of Iraq-bound goods passing through Aqaba was the suspension by many European banks of all contracts and negotiations based on Iraqi frozen assets and accounts held abroad. The suspension came after the adoption in August this year of a United Nations Security Council Resolution ordering the appropriation of Iraqi oil-related funds held abroad for war reparations and U.N. purposes.

— Most of the banks have now reopened their books after the initial alarm triggered by the Security Council resolution, said an Iraqi businessman, "but restarting negotiations and formalising purchase contracts take a long time."

## Ancient cup found in Jordan Valley

AMMAN (J.T.) — In cooperation with the Department of Antiquities, a Swedish archaeological expedition has accomplished their excavation at Tell Abu Al-Kharaz in the Jordan Valley. The Swedish team headed by Professor Peter Fischer finished their third season and returned home a few weeks ago. Their preliminary report of their scientific activities was submitted to the Director General of the Department of Antiquities Dr. Safwan Tell. Abu Al Kharaz is situated at a strategic point in the Jordan Valley where the Yabis Valley links with its plateau. The site is dated back to 3000 B.C. Many architectural remains such as wide walls, storage rooms with some jars have been found and dated to a period between 800-600 B.C. The most important object found at the site is an animal bone which has been carefully cut to represent a cup.

Food and medicines are exempt from the international embargo imposed against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Businessmen say that there is a clear scaling-down of Iraqi imports of items classified as non-essential in the face of an acute foreign exchange shortage. But that does not account for the huge gap at Aqaba, particularly since there appears to be little shortage of many basic items in the Iraqi market.

Several other reasons are also

## Iraqi imports through Aqaba shrink

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraqi imports through Jordan's Aqaba port have shrunk to less than one tenth in six months, and officials and businessmen say the Iraqi government as well as traders are increasingly turning to Turkish and Iranian ports for their imports.

The decline is clearly visible. In May 1992, "intransit imports" in the bulk of them food and medicines destined for Iraq — arriving at Aqaba totalled less than 44,000 tonnes in November 1992, compared with 569,962 tonnes in May.

Food and medicines are exempt from the international embargo imposed against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

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Several other reasons are also

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

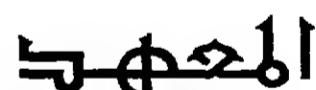
### EXHIBITIONS

★ Caricature exhibition by cartoonist Naji Al Ali at the Abdin Shoman Art Gallery.

### AMERICAN FOOTBALL

★ NFL "Wildcard" games and college bowl games at the American Centre as of 1:30 p.m.

## The College



الكلية التقنية

### Training Program Jan 1993

Course	Date	Requirements
MS-DOS5	2/1	7/1
WINDOWS	2/1	6/1
MS-DOS5	9/1	14/1
ARABIC WRITE	9/1	14/1
WINDOWS	9/1	13/1
MS-DOS5	23/1	28/1
WINDOWS	23/1	27/1

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## HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AQABA RAILWAY CORPORATION

Invitation for submission of prequalification date for the connection of Shidya Mine to ARC railway line.

### CORRECTION

Closing date in our previous announcement should read 16 January 1993 and not 16 June 1993.

M. Krishan  
D.G.  
A.R.C.

## APPRECIATION FOR CONDOLENCES

Al Kassab, Nabil and Nabda families and their relatives and in-laws would like to express thanks and gratitude to all friends who overwhelmed us with their affection and sympathy in our difficult moments which followed the passing of our beloved:

**MONA NADIM KASSAB**  
Wife of Tareq Shafiq Nabil

May God bless you all

**Jordan Times**  
**667171**

also said that the assistance given to farmers whose lands were affected by the storms was not sufficient. He said the government ought to real extend help to the farmers in the face of the natural disasters.

Deputy Nader Thubeirat  
The Jordan Valley

Deputy Nader Thubeirat thanked the government for allocating sufficient funds for social, health, educational and youth services, but he said these services ought to be distributed fairly in all regions. Mr. Thubeirat supported the House's Financial Committee's report which included criticism of public administration performance in Jordan. He said that government offices suffer from favouritism which causes incessant complaints from the public. He said that the 7,000 new jobs created by the budget ought to be distributed equally. He demanded that the government impose no new taxes and said no increases should be made to the present customs duty since the public is already overburdened financially. He



Deputy Faisal Al Jazi

Southern Badia

Deputy Mohammad Fares  
Al Tarawneh  
Karak

Deputy Tarawneh said the draft budget did not tackle economic problems in industrial and commercial centres in central Jordan. To address the economic imbalance, he said, the government should establish a holding company in cooperation with the private sector. This company would have affiliate industrial and agricultural ventures that would be distributed all over Jordan and would provide job opportunities for the oecumenical. Furthermore, he added, this would reduce migration from the countryside to Amman.

Mr. Tarawneh also said the budget lacked any mention of establishing recreational facilities in various governorates although it gave due attention to other educational and health activities.

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## Jordan Times

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## Questions tied to START

THE ARMS reduction agreement signed by Presidents George Bush and Boris Yeltsin in Moscow Sunday is indeed historic in that its scope and objectives surpass all other disarmament accords and treaties ever signed.

Aimed at eliminating up to 17,000 nuclear weapons on both sides over the next 11 years, the treaty provides a new meaning to the spirit of global disarmament and is one of the last nails in the coffin of East-West rivalry. START-II turns back the clock on nuclear arms two or three decades, but it is also accepted that it does not mean an end to the age of weapons of mass destruction since the accord still leaves thousands of nuclear arms for planes, warships and missiles in many corners of the globe. And that brings us to the key question: Except for the sense of relief that Americans and the former Soviet republics have at last taken a major step to end the nuclear threat facing the globe, what is in it for us in the Middle East?

While we have no quarrels with START-II, we do have a problem with those who profess total nuclear disarmament. And that has to do with our Middle East region, where no-one seems to bother about the nuclear threat that we face, except of course when it comes to an Arab country like Iraq.

Is it enough for the proponents of a nuclear-weapons-free world that Israel is promising that it would not be the first to introduce the bomb to a Middle East conflict? Is it not clear that Israel's possession of nuclear weapons is itself a big hurdle in the path of a lasting and equitable peace?

Does it need public Israeli announcements of nuclear tests and experiments before the world officially wakes up and accepts that the Middle East needs to be looked at from closer quarters in terms of the atomic sabre that the Jewish state is rattling, albeit silently, against the Arabs?

We would hate to think so, but that is how it appears. And that is worrisome to us. Let us put aside for a moment the perceived threat and get down to the "new world order," which, if we are to believe Mr. Bush, includes a nuclear-free globe (unless of course the new order leaves the White House along with Mr. Bush on Jan. 20). By definition, therefore, the new world order implies the neutralisation of nuclear arms — and other weapons of mass destruction — in all regions of the world. China, Britain, France, India, Pakistan and Israel included.

Notwithstanding our bitter experiences with some of the strange facets of the new world order, we hope there is enough will left around for a completely new look at the nuclear realities in regional conflicts, particularly in the volatile Middle East.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL-RAY' Arabic daily Sunday discussed the question of inter-Arab reconciliation recalling a statement by the Arab League secretary general who called on the Arab leaders to transcend their differences and act collectively vis-a-vis the common challenges. It should be noted that it was Jordan which persisted calling for such a move, but it is also of importance at this moment to hear the call coming from the Arab League chief, noted the daily. The paper said that it should be emphasised that the Arab League bears a serious responsibility towards safeguarding Arab interests and therefore Arab masses would be looking towards the Arab League for a second step, paving the ground for reconciliation in due rather than words. What we expect, said the paper, is to see the Arab League secretariat embarking on the necessary contacts and invitations to Arab leaders to convene a special meeting just to achieve the aspired reconciliation which is a very fundamental element in any collective action. Reestablishing Arab solidarity is a must and should be placed on the top list of the Arab countries' priorities, especially as the Arab leaders witness fast-moving developments and events that one way or another affect their enemies' future, added the paper. It warned that under the new world order, the Arab leaders may say that they should not be surprised to see others shaping up their future for them and acting at will in matters affecting the Arab masses.

SAWT AL-SHAAB daily tackled the failure of the U.N. Security Council, to date, to force Israel to comply with its orders. As was expected, the Security Council has proved impotent as to the implementation of Resolution 799 on the repatriation of the Palestinian refugees, and, as expected, the council proved to be influenced by orders of the U.S. administration which is totally biased towards Israel, said the daily. As it is obvious to all, the U.S. administration has responded favourably to Yitzhak Rabin's call on Washington to remain passive with regard to the deportation question, added the daily. It said that this attitude no doubt has encouraged Mr. Rabin and his government to go ahead with plans not only to try to stifle the intifada, but also to deport undesired Palestinian activists. The paper said that despite the U.N. Security Council's resolution and Israel's rejection of implementing it, the Americans are doing nothing to force the Israelis to comply with the resolution, but, on the whole, it added. The deportees' ordeal has exposed the Israeli leaders who have acted in defiance of the world community in a bid to abort the peace process. Furthermore, the deportees' persistence to return to their homeland has also won them the respect and the sympathy of the world, said the daily.

## Weekly Political Pulse

# Peace with most of its trimmings

By Waleed Sadi

Some of us on the Arab side think that we can have our cake and too by subscribing to the peace talks with Israel but ruling elements of normalisation with it at the end of the tunnel. It appears to be a hypocritical stance, through and through. It has been infinitely more honest to shun away the peace process altogether and maintain the status quo in the Middle East. It is to sue for peace without contemplating normalisation of ties with Israel at the conclusion of the peace talks.

It may be comprehensible and defensible not to join the peace negotiations on the basis that the regional and international climate is not appropriate or favourable for them at this time. This would be an honest position to take. But to accept the peace process as the only viable option left for the two sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict and then show timidity as to how far the

Arab negotiating teams may go in reaching out for a just and permanent peace accord is something that lacks credibility and comprehension. The absurdity of the stance that accepts peace parleys but rejects the trimmings usually associated with peace treaties, becomes all the more obvious when everybody knows

that there is no way that the Palestinians, the Syrians, the Lebanese or the Jordanians can retrieve their lost territories without committing themselves to a full peace with Israel.

Damascus is already on record as offering full peace for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The Palestinian side had also reconciled itself with full peace with Israel when the Palestinian leader publicly challenged the Israeli prime minister to a summit for the avowed purpose of resolving the Palestinian case once and for all on the foundation of complete normalisation of relations between the two peoples. There is no doubt that this Palestinian and Syrian posture is shared with the remaining Arab parties. So why perpetuate the false illusion that peace talks with Israel are honourable but normalisation of relations with the same country is disgraceful?

This illogical posture that condones peace negotiations with Israel but condemns full peace with it is slowly but surely eroding even amongst the Arab masses. This hypocrisy exists among those of us who have yet to reconcile ourselves with the possible ending of the heritage of war with Israel. This sentiment is reinforced

every time the peace process appears to be heading nowhere or is deadlocked over fundamental issues. When Israel rejects the just Arab demands for complete withdrawal from Arab territories invaded and occupied in 1967 or shuns the legitimate Palestinian call for recognition and statehood, the chorus against normalisation becomes vindicated and strengthened. In the final analysis, therefore, what would make or break the cause of the rejectionists of eventual normalisation of relations with Israel is the prospect of achieving just and permanent peace treaties between Israel and the Arab parties on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. In other words, the fate of this issue lies squarely in the hands of the Israeli side which must make a decision on the critical issues of peace that still divide the two camps.

Against this backdrop, the Arab reluctance to open up their hearts completely to Israel is in effect a reaction to the Israeli footdragging over the vital issues that still make the peace process almost anemic. The moment the peace process appears to be heading towards an honourable and just solution, the voices supporting normalisation of relations with Israel will strengthen.

## All the troubles of the world on its shoulders

By Adam Roberts

"All empires die of indigestion," Napoleon's remark applies not only to his own bitter experience of imperial overstretch, but also to our own times. It helps to explain the end of the Soviet empire, which manifestly bit off a great deal more than it could chew. And now a new nightmare looms in the tragedies of Somalia, Yugoslavia and at least a dozen other countries. Will the United Nations, like so many other empires before it, die of indigestion?

The feeling of overstretch is apparent in much that the U.N. does, and does not do, in the many crises of the post-cold war world. The familiar statistic — that more U.N. peacekeeping operations have been set up in the past five years than in the preceding 42 years — probably understates the gravity of the crisis which the U.N. is trying to confront.

Despite the veneer of optimism in New York, conveyed strikingly in the U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali's Agenda for Peace report last June, there is an underlying stratum of deep concern. The U.N. and its members, simply cannot cope with the terrifying force of Yugoslavia's ethnic warfare. So serious is the sense of overstretch that, during the past year, the U.N. Secretariat has used procedural sleight-of-hand in the Security Council to avoid involvement in at least one of the conflicts of its former Soviet Union — that in Nagorno Karabakh.

The U.N. Secretariat and Security Council are simply not well suited to coping with deep and bitter internal conflicts. This is hardly surprising. Controlling apparently ungovernable regions is an ancient and difficult prob-

lem of international relations, and it is one that the U.N. is not necessarily better equipped to tackle — whether in legal, administrative or political terms — than were the old imperial states of previous eras.

The U.N. Charter is largely a document about inter-state conflicts — such wars having been, for many in the West, the central problem of world politics. But in large areas of the world, from Yugoslavia to China, from El Salvador to Somalia, communal violence and civil war have long been seen as a much more serious problem.

Now there is the bizarre spectacle of an international organisation which was set up to deal with international war having relatively little to do in that regard, but having to cope simultaneously with a dozen or more civil wars (albeit with international complications).

The U.N. has had some impor-

tant successes. In Namibia and Nicaragua, it has helped monitor elections and end long-standing conflicts of a partly internal character. But when a country is riven by old and bitter animosities, whether or not classified as "ethnic," the U.N. may have as much difficulty as any other outside power in ending the resulting conflict.

The U.N.'s difficulty may actually be made worse by the contemporary rejection of most manifestations of imperial control. The crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, for example, strongly suggests the need for some kind of trusteeship arrangement — for the simple reason that Bosnia, whose ethnic mix is a microcosm of the old Yugoslavia, has never cohered as a state and will not do so in the foreseeable future. Yet such is our commitment to an anti-colonial ideology that we talk about military intervention in Bosnia without ever

daring to specify what political or administrative arrangements the interveners might find themselves either protecting or imposing.

Can the United States succeed where the U.N. has failed? Twice in the past two years — first with Resolution 678 of Nov. 29, 1990, (giving Iraq a deadline to get out of Kuwait), and then with Resolution 794 of Dec. 3, 1992, (on Somalia) — the U.N. Security Council has authorised the United States and partners to do its military work for it. This may well set an enduring pattern for the manner in which the U.N. will operate in a world of sovereign states. Both operations, however, have provided plentiful evidence of a reluctance by the U.S. to impose its own political order on a nationally sovereign state; and both have shown its anxiety to end an operation as quickly as possible.

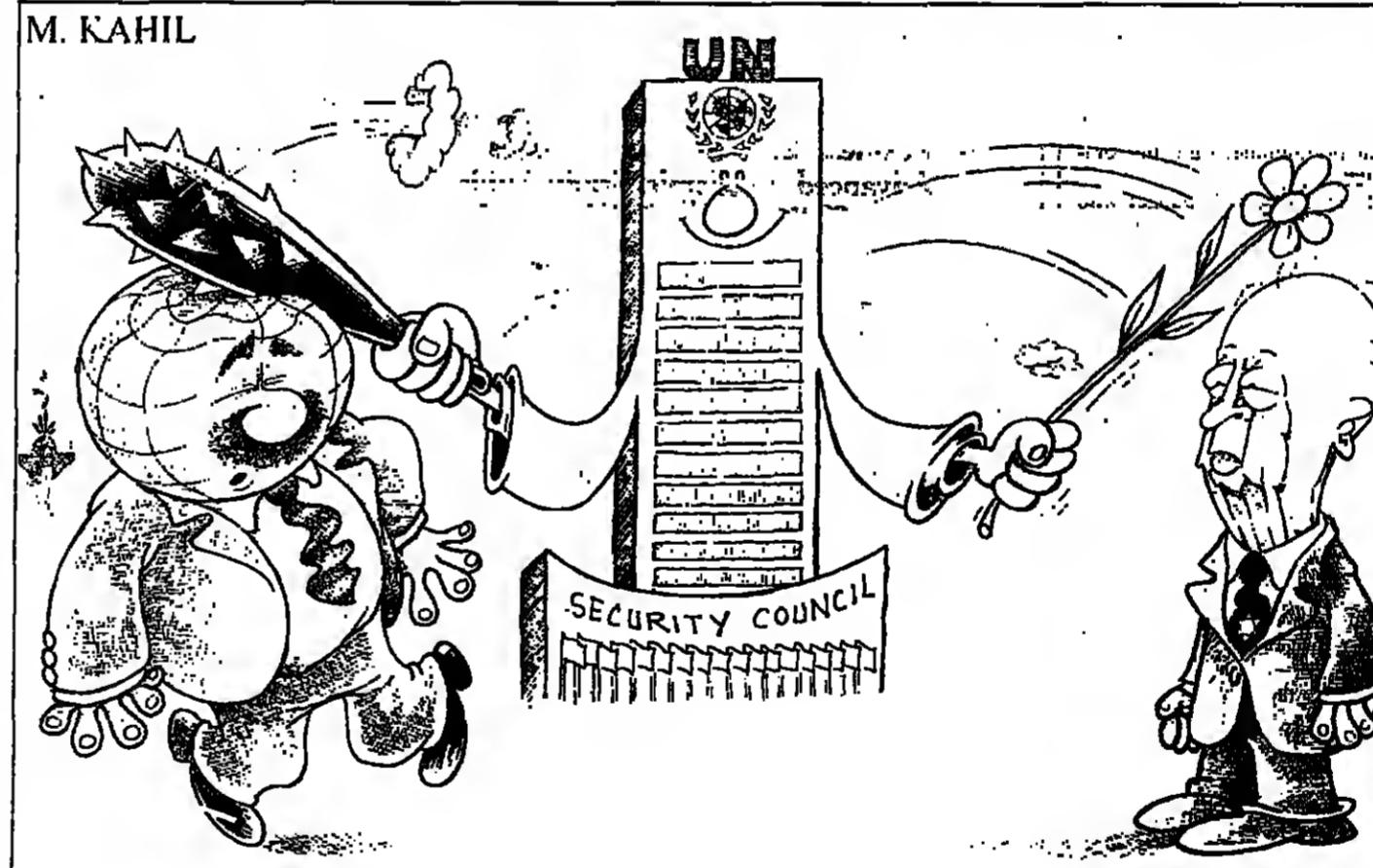
In short, the U.S., with its deep sense of being a genuinely anti-colonial state, and its memories of long and painful involvement in Vietnam, seeks victories, not enduring control over fractured societies. It wants to return Somalia into the shaky hands of UNOSOM (U.N. Operation in Somalia) at the earliest possible moment.

Bill Clinton's victory in the U.S. presidential election marked a triumph of domestic over foreign preoccupations; and even making full allowance for the paradoxical possibility that Mr. Clinton may get heavily enmeshed abroad, there is no way that he will commit the U.S. to the colonial administration of a Somalia or a Bosnia for as long as it takes.

There is little sign of recognition — whether in the U.N., the U.S. or, indeed, in western Europe — that international involvement in contemporary civil wars may well be very long-term; may require imaginative and difficult administrative as well as military programmes; and may be best avoided if there is not the willingness to say the course. Nor is there much recognition that the anti-imperial instincts of both the U.S. and the U.N. may make a minority of problems harder, rather than easier, to tackle.

The deplorable failure of European countries (whether in a NATO or CSCE context) to come to terms with these realities was partly the result of hubris: of a belief that somehow we had evolved out of history, that war in Europe was scarcely thinkable any more, and that we were now armed with methods of conflict prevention which could be applied to whatever crisis might erupt. Any illusions should now be shattered.

It is time there was a serious debate about how states, regional bodies and the U.N. itself can effectively intervene in civil wars. Unless something effective can be done, the day may yet come when the hard-pressed U.N. Secretariat, far from feeling liberated by the non-use of any veto in the Security Council since May 31, 1990, and the U.N.'s new-found capacity for action, bankers for a return to regular use of the veto to save it from involvement in seemingly necessary but possibly hopeless operations — The Independent.



## Hawkish dove up a lonely tree

By Ian Black



Yitzhak Rabin  
the duty Supreme Court judge.  
Opinion polls taken last week showed that Rabin enjoyed the support of a staggering 91 per cent of the Jewish population for the biggest single expulsion carried out since the capture of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Middle East war.

Yet since then not a day has gone by without new doubts and second thoughts being expressed, often by the same politicians who made the whole unhappy episode possible. Mr. Rabin's blunt refusal to extend any unilateral humanitarian aid — backed by only

eight out of 16 ministers — has almost certainly reduced that figure.

Shimon Peres, the foreign minister, was already unhappy over a decision made in his absence. David Bibi, minister of justice, abstained from the crucial cabinet vote and now says he wishes he had opposed it. Other Labour leaders admit they never

were voting for? Many remember the decision to advance just 40 kilometres into Lebanon in 1982 only to find the army at the gates of Beirut before you could say Ariel Sharon.

And what about the deportees? Ten, the army has admitted, were rounded up by mistake, yet few of the rest fit the demonic image of dangerous Muslim terrorists. The Hama gunmen who killed six Israeli soldiers, everyone admits, are still on the run.

Like all crises, this one has thrown elements of the background into sharp and painful relief. One of the most shocking revelations has been the furious reaction of Israel's own Arab community — descendants of those Palestinians who stayed behind in 1948.

Expressions of solidarity, marches to the Lebanese border and a defiant rabble-rousing speech in Gaza by a left-wing Arab MP, Hashim Mahamid, have been produced by the old spectre of expulsion and dispossession that links close to the brain stem of Palestinians everywhere.

Two weeks on, the original move itself looks increasingly dodgy, quite apart from the shabby and much criticised attempt to circumvent the Supreme Court. Did ministers know exactly what

they were voting for? Many remember the decision to advance just 40 kilometres into Lebanon in 1982 only to find the army at the gates of Beirut before you could say Ariel Sharon.

It seems to have been designed less to encourage the Palestinian mainstream to pursue the slow-moving peace process and more to appease Israelis worried that the war against the intifada might be waning — a vital message if this fragile coalition was to survive the dangerous ructions of doing an historic deal and swapping territory for peace.

As James Jonah left Jerusalem empty-handed and the deportees settled down for another cold night, their future remained uncertain, trapped between friends and enemies hoping the problem would go away. If the lesson of the past fortnight is anything to go by, it will not. Some Israelis hope that Rabin will come down from his tree, not just because of the discomfort that bleak Lebanese hillside but because of their hopes for the peace negotiations that must soon resume. "Are we forever fated," one commentator asked desperately this week, "to reach the station after the last train has left and years before the next one arrives?" — The Guardian

## House panel offers support

(Continued from page 1)

the House's Finance Committee to reach consensus on its report.

After agreeing to proceed with the discussion of the draft budget and allowing deputies to "say what ever they want" in their speeches, 48 deputies demanded to take the floor. Eight deputies spoke in Sunday's marathon session which lasted from 10.30 a.m. till 5 p.m., with a 45-minute unapproved interruption caused by deputies' failure to return to the House in time from lunch break.

While generally praising the draft budget as a clear improvement upon its predecessors, the Finance Committee severely criticised government bureaucracy, demanded more action to combat poverty and unemployment, more efficient management of financial allocations and continuation of price controls.

The committee also demanded the provision of comprehensive medical insurance, salary increases to public-sector employees and more backing for the Armed Forces, which are not "receiving enough support in the areas of modernisation, armament and training."

"There is widespread administrative negligence and deterioration, complications, shortage of qualified personnel, strict centralisation, nepotism and parasitism" in government bureaucracy, the Finance Committee said in its report.

The committee said a number of ministers had used public funds to promote their personal interests and electoral purposes.

"Most of these ministers were deputies," the committee said, urging immediate action to combat what it called a dangerous phenomenon. "In short, the committee found the bureaucracy incapable of crisis management," the report said, calling for a thorough administrative reform programme that will redress the shortcomings of bureaucracy.

"Our problem is no longer caused by shortages of funds; it is caused by bureaucracy," it said. While expressing appreciation for the government's increase of its allocations of the National Aid Fund — JD 13 million or 60 per cent more than the allocations in 1992 — the committee said the amount was not enough to cope with the problem and called for boosting the monthly payments to needy citizens.

The committee reported a violation in the distribution of the fund's assistance to governorates, attributing that to abusing office for personal ambitions.

The committee sees the unfair distribution of expenditure among governorates as abuse of office, especially that one of the governorates that received more expenditure is the governorate of the minister of social development," the report said. "This can be interpreted as using office for personal ambitions or future electoral interests," it said.

The committee proposed the House demand a government report detailing the amounts spent by the fund in the last three years.

In its 33-page report, which was read to the House by its rapporteur Mutair Al Bustanji, the committee said it was unrealistic to expect a quick solution to the unemployment problem. Pointing out that Jordan suffers

## Regent urges comprehensive approach

(Continued from page 1)

lead to the achievement of social progress and economic stability.

The Russian delegation, led by Rustam Khasbulatov, speaker of the Supreme Soviet, was earlier received by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. Talks during the meeting focused on the Middle East peace process.

Also discussed was the crisis resulting from Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of 415 Palestinians to South Lebanon.

In comments carried by the Associated Press, one of the members of the Soviet delegation was quoted as saying that Moscow's role in the Middle East peace process was being overshadowed by Washington's increasing influence in the region.

"Russia has played an important role in the Middle East and is co-sponsor of the peace

process, but the U.S. is gaining the upper hand," the delegate was quoted as saying.

**Regent meets British MPs**

Also on Sunday, Crown Prince Hassan met with two visiting British parliamentarians, Robert Adley and John Rathbone. Mr. Adley is chairman of the British Jordanian Parliamentary Group at the House of Commons.

The parliamentarians and Prince Hassan discussed various issues related to the on-going peace process, including Israel's expulsion of the 415 Palestinians and they conveyed to their own government's dismay at the expansion.

The Regent expressed his concern about the "over-loaded International agenda" and how this may ultimately lead to the marginalization of the Middle East.

Mr. Adley and Mr. Rathbone assured the Prince, however, that despite the fact that Europe is

now engrossed in the many changes taking place within it, there is a strong desire to work towards eliminating the disparities that exist in the region, particularly in terms of economic cooperation with the European Community.

The MPs also discussed the question of the Palestinian evictees and the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

The prime minister reaffirmed Jordan's principles with regard to peace and a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and Jordan's call for an exchange of land for peace.

The two parliamentarians expressed their understanding of the situation, and the ordeal of the victims. They also supported Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for their repatriation.

## Israelis terrorise Palestinian exiles

(Continued from page 1)

porters of the two factions.

Previous reconciliation efforts had failed because of Hamas' insistence that the Palestinians withdraw from the Middle East peace process which the PLO backs.

The Palestinians fled their makeshift camp during Saturday's Israeli bombardment.

The 415 exiles, trapped between Lebanese and Israeli lines for more than two weeks, returned to the camp after Israel's big guns and tanks stopped firing late Saturday.

They said they were living in terror.

They were again disturbed by the roar of tanks moving on Israel's frontlines Sunday and by Lebanese troops who barred a sick deportee from reaching a hospital in Lebanese territory.

The shelling was apparently aimed at terrorising villagers sup-

plying us with food," said Dr. Rantisi.

"We appeal to villagers to stop sending us aid to preserve their safety," said Dr. Rantisi, speaking after journalists saw a mule laden with supplies reach the camp in a rare daylight smuggling operation from Lebanese territory.

The smugglers were apparently hoping that Israeli troops would be able to see they were unarmed and were not guerrillas.

Dr. Rantisi vowed the evictees would remain in their camp until Israel implements U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 demanding that the Jewish state allows their immediate and safe return.

Dr. Rantisi said 10 evictees Israel says were expelled in error and can return were still waiting for the Red Cross to escort them to the Zemraya crossing into Israeli-controlled territory.

"The U.N. should force Israel to back down on its decision to expel us before we have a tragedy and many victims fall," he said.

road to Zemraya, about two kilometres south of the camp.

Israel says the 10 should return to its South Lebanon "security zone" through three other crossings which can only be reached through Lebanese government-controlled territory.

Marwan Hamadi, Lebanon's health minister and acting foreign minister, told Reuters Sunday the International Committee of the Red Cross could only reach the camp from the "security zone."

"We insist that any assistance or visit take place from the southern (Zemraya) checkpoint and not from Lebanese territory. On this we are quite adamant and we will not budge," he said.

"Israel is responsible for this whole ordeal," Mr. Hamadi said.

Dr. Rantisi said the evictees supported Lebanon's position.

"The U.N. should force Israel to back down on its decision to expel us before we have a tragedy and many victims fall," he said.

## Egypt

(Continued from page 1)

An unofficial translation of Mr. Sahil's letter obtained from Sudan's U.N. mission in New York said the most grave development occurred on Dec. 9 when nearly 600 Egyptian soldiers, including a brigadier general, invaded Halabja province.

They built several camps and erected border signs denoting Egypt to the north and Sudan to the south, it said.

Foreign indebtedness has reached proportions under which it is impossible to think of," fully solving it even on the long term, the committee said.

The committee said the draft budget for 1993 aims at achieving a seven to eight per cent growth in the gross domestic product (GDP), maintaining continued economic activity through expansion in investment, increasing exports, and growth of financial markets, construction and services sectors. The draft budget also aims at limiting the deficit in the current balance of payment to 10 per cent of the GDP, increasing remittances from Jordanian expatriates, curbing inflation at four to five per cent, controlling government expenditure and limiting the budget deficit to eight per cent of the GDP — 2.8 per cent less than projected for this year in the economic readjustment programme, said the committee.

It said the draft budget also aims at maintaining stability of the exchange rate of the dinar, keeping sufficient foreign currency reserves and limiting foreign indebtedness. The draft budget is also geared towards reducing unemployment levels, covering current expenditure by local revenue, "an achievement which users in the era of self-reliance in financing the capital and current expenditures."

The committee called on the House to endorse the draft budget after considering its recommendations.

That, however, deputies would not do before they voice their say on it. Eight deputies took the floor on Sunday and 39 others will address the House when it resumes its debate of the draft budget Monday morning.

## Salary hike depends on revenue boost

(Continued from page 1)

Ideally, said Mr. Jardaneh, the government would be able to assess its revenue by mid year and would issue a supplement budget including the raise if it is established by then that the increased revenue was attained. He said the raise would be retroactive to Jan. 1.

A JD 20 raise to public sector employees will amount to JD 90 million additional annual govern-

ment expenditure and will benefit 300,000 employees and 150,000 retired people.

Mr. Jardaneh, however, projects JD 60 million additional revenue and it is therefore expected that in order to remain within the estimated budget deficit for 1993, the raise will amount to JD 10 monthly, or JD 45 million in additional government expenditure.

And, according to Dr. Akaleeb, "the government has committed itself to the raise."

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# Sports

## Ukraine defeat Austria in Hopman Cup

PERTH (AP) — Brother-sister combination Andrei Medvedev and Natalia Medvedeva made a spectacular Hopman Cup debut Sunday, lifting Ukraine to a 2-1 victory over seventh-seeded Austria in the team tennis tournament at the Burswood Superdome.

Judith Wiesner beat Medvedeva 6-1, 6-4 in just 76 minutes in the opening women's singles but Medvedeva leveled the contest with a 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) victory over Thomas Muster.

The family combination then downed the more experienced pair of Muster and Wiesner 7-5, 3-6, 6-2 in the decisive mixed doubles as their parents cheered from the sidelines.

"It's nice to play with someone who knows you, understands you and can help you," Medvedeva said of her brother.

Medvedev and Medvedeva are bidding to become the second brother-sister team to win the event. Emilio and Arantxa Sanchez of Spain triumphed in 1990-91.

The Ukraine pair now will face the top-seeded German team of Michael Stich and Steffi Graf in the quarterfinals of the \$490,000 tournament.

"We have nothing to lose, any-



Thomas Muster

can beat anyone," Medvedeva said.

In matches played Saturday, undefeated Australia defeated No. 6 seed South Africa 3-0 and defending champion Switzerland defeated Japan 2-1.

Stich hopes to start New Year as he ended 1992

Former Wimbledon champion Michael Stich ended a dismal 1992 with a surprise victory in the Grand Slam Cup and a \$2 million winner's check — the biggest of his career.

It was one of the few bright spots in a year that saw the

German's world ranking drop from No. 4 to No. 12.

Stich's Grand Slam Cup earnings in Munich alone dwarfed his total winnings of \$777,411 for the whole year on the IBM/ATP tour, in which he had a 43-21 singles record and won only one tournament — a small one at Rosmalen in the Netherlands.

"It was a mixed season," Stich said Sunday as he prepared to partner Steffi Graf in the Hopman Cup, a leadup event to the Australian Open.

Playing with Steffi is good because she usually wins her singles, so I can go out 1-0 up and be very relaxed."

Stich won doubles titles last year at the Olympic Games with Boris Becker and at Wimbledon with John McEnroe.

Top-seeded Germany faces Ukraine in its Hopman Cup opener Tuesday.

Krajicek, Pete Sampras and Michael Chang.

"That was the first time I beat a top 10 player for a long while, so that has built up my confidence and should help to do well at the Australian Open," he said.

Stich said he was happy to be starting 1993 in Australia, where he has always played well.

He reached finals in Adelaide and Sydney in 1991, the year he won Wimbledon, and made the quarterfinals of the Australian Open in 1992.

Stich said he sees the Hopman Cup, which has a unique format of women's singles, men's singles and mixed doubles, as an ideal way to prepare for the Australian Open.

"It will be a lot of fun," said Stich, who will be partnering Graf for the first time. "I know her quite well and I like the way she plays tennis."

Stich won doubles titles last year at the Olympic Games with Boris Becker and at Wimbledon with John McEnroe.

Top-seeded Germany faces

Ukraine in its Hopman Cup opener Tuesday.



Vlade Divac (right) grabs a rebound for the L. A. Lakers

## Clippers beat Knicks on overtime buzzer

NEW YORK (R) — Gary Grant's 20-foot baseline jumper at the overtime buzzer gave the Los Angeles Clippers a 98-97 victory over the New York Knicks Saturday as the National Basketball Association swung back into action after a new year's break.

Knicks center Patrick Ewing had a game-high 26 points, eight of them in overtime, as his team eventually won the game.

In another thriller, Kendall Gill's 15-foot jumper from the right baseline with four seconds left gave the Charlotte Hornets a 118-117 win over the visiting New Jersey Nets.

New Jersey held a one-point lead and had possession with 12 seconds to play, but turned the ball over as Kenny Anderson was called for a backcourt violation.

In Orlando, Joe Dumars scored 23 points in the second half to lead the Detroit Pistons to a come-from-behind, 98-97 victory over the Magic after trailing by as many as 19 points.

Rookie Shaquille O'Neal had 29 points and 15 rebounds but

committed seven of the Magic's season-high 25 turnovers.

In Chicago, Michael Jordan scored a game-high 39 points as his Bulls extended their winning streak to seven games with a 109-100 victory over the Indiana Pacers, who lost their sixth in a row.

At Portland, Karl Malone had 29 points and 13 rebounds and Jeff Malone scored 21 points to lead the Utah Jazz to their fifth win in a row, a 110-102 victory over the Trail Blazers.

In Cleveland, Larry Nance scored 18 points and Craig Ehlo added 17 as the Cavaliers defeated the Los Angeles Lakers 106-91 for their 10th victory in the last 11 games.

Vlade Divac had 18 points and James Worthy scored 17 for the Lakers, who suffered their sixth loss in eight games.

In Sacramento, Rookie Walt Williams poured in a career-high 40 points to lead the Kings to their highest point total ever in a 154-98 rout of the Philadelphia 76ers.

In Minnesota, the Timberwolves snapped an eight-game losing streak by routing the woeful Dallas Mavericks 103-71 for their biggest winning margin ever.



Australia's Greg Matthews sends the ball on its way to the boundary on the second of the Third Test against the West Indies in Sydney, Sunday (AFP photo)

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 1993

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JANUARY 4, 1993

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** You would be wise to make whatever repairs are necessary at your home and on your property but don't commit yourself to anything that is really too big for you to handle alone.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You have some confusion where worldly activities are concerned but you can make rapid progress in arranging for a better understanding with associates.

**Taurus:** (April 20 to May 20) Don't be afraid to get into whatever tasks face you for fear that you do not know how to do them well enough but your best is more than sufficient.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You see to having trouble arranging the outlets that bring you pleasure but persevere and you find you can have a wonderful time tonight.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 21) Take no chance with your credit but have all obligations of a worldly nature well attended to and you can then sit back, view results with satisfaction.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Think about what you can do to make advances in expanding your present activities and growth but wait until tonight before putting in motion.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You have some promises made that are difficult to keep during the day but do your best and you see the right way to get them in back of you tonight.

fully scrutinized today but tonight you have a good time anyway.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) This is your day to get rid of chores that make your base of operation more efficient and tonight you can be romantic with your mate.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Whatever your personal desires proceed cautiously in endeavoring to make them a part of your life during the daytime but tonight you see ways to get them easily.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You need to be very careful what you do during the daytime or you lose face or stand in your community but tonight go out on the town.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 21) Take no chance with your credit but have all obligations of a worldly nature well attended to and you can then sit back, view results with satisfaction.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Think about what you can do to make advances in expanding your present activities and growth but wait until tonight before putting in motion.

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## THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS



"I'm bored, restless, depressed, disenchanted and hopeless. But aside from that, I'm very happy."

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME

by Herb Arnold

© 1993 Tribune Media Services Inc.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**GIBEE**

□ □ □

**AFTEC**

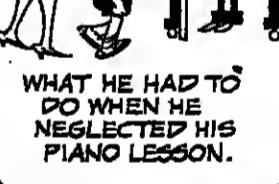
□ □ □

**CAMBLE**

□ □ □

**SHAUTI**

□ □ □



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: □ □ □ THE □ □ □ □

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DOGMA YACHT COBALT HANSON

Answer: What you generally have to pay for hot merchandise—COLD CASH

## THE Daily Crossword

by Frank R. Jackson

ACROSS

1. A from Simple

5. Unable to speak

6. Flower part

14. Suite to —

15. Native name

17. Adjective

18. Buckle walkway

19. Cut into cubes

20. Comic strip character

23. Problem solver

24. Family member

25. New grads

28. Pleasant

31. Appear

35. Whale

38. Paris airport

40. Sheepish?

41. Character in a classic movie

44. Party

45. Apportion

46. Suggestive look

47. Enlarge

48. Tears

51. Marched

52. Ocean

53. The Red

54. Asian, rodent

55. Dif., old style

56. Northern

57. Repair once again

58. Assigned task

59. Prepare for

60. Flock

61. Mr. Fudd

62. Race-track shape

63. — and dined

64. Beneath

65. Long, narrow

66. Desirable

67. Alliteration

68. Alliteration

69. Alliteration

70. Alliteration

71. Winter vehicle

72. Goals

DOWN

1. Rattler's speech

2. Virgin willow

3. Equipment

4. Piions

5. Removal by editor

6. River in Caipiri

7. Tandem

8. Sugar source

48. Poor grade

## China pushes stock markets to go national in 1993

PEKING (R) — China will expand its stock market experiment this year by encouraging every province to list top companies and stringing together its first national network of securities brokers, official media said Sunday.

"The central government has listed the securities market as one of the most important vehicles to drive an overhaul of the country's economy," the official China Daily said.

The new policy represents a major expansion of Peking's trial run with Western-style securities markets, throwing open the door to participation by both companies and individual investors in China's vast inland regions.

Stock fever has been one of the most obvious results of the market-style economic reforms the Communist Party has put into effect to try to save its political rule.

The official Xinhua News Agency quoted an authoritative source as saying the first step would be official permission for

each province to select one or two companies for listing on the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock markets.

"The move is tantamount to an official go-ahead to public issuance of stocks in areas other than Hainan, Fujian and Guangdong, the only three provinces allowed to issue stocks to the general public thus far," Xinhua said in a report late Saturday.

Peking has set a target of about five billion yuan (\$880 million) for new stock floats in 1993, much lower than the 13 billion yuan (\$2.3 billion) issued on the Shanghai and Shenzhen markets in 1992, Xinhua said.

The two markets, which have officially been in operation for about two years, saw wide price swings in 1992 as uncertain investors bid up prices and then dumped stock.

Stock analysts say the scramble to list new shares temporarily flooded the market with paper, making balanced development more difficult.

The plan to issue five billion

yuan of stocks in 1993 is practical and reasonable," Xinhua said.

"The listing of stocks from other parts of China would facilitate easier flow of funds from among different areas while making the capital structure of the stock market more balanced," it added.

The decision to allow wider, national participation in stock markets reflects concern in Peking that booming coastal areas may be leaving more isolated interior regions behind in the race for development, according to the China Daily.

He said that, along with relatively prosperous cities such as Guangzhou and Peking, Guotai hoped to put branch offices in Wuhan in central China and Shenyang in China's north.

Companies across the country have issued stock, but in most cases they have been able to sell the certificates only to their own employees. Shanghai and Shenzhen list mostly local companies and draw mostly local investors.

To bring more people into stock trading, China established three national securities companies in October that are projected to become major players on the stock market.

One of the three, Guotai

Securities, is planning to set up a national network of at least 16 branches to expand business inland as well as along the coast, according to officials.

"Only by forming a widespread network of branches can we play a key role," Guotai Vice-Chairman Yan Guangzhi told the China Daily.

He said that, along with relatively prosperous cities such as Guangzhou and Peking, Guotai hoped to put branch offices in Wuhan in central China and Shenyang in China's north.

China Southern Securities, another of the three, also plans to set up a network of branches and has already put an office in Tianjin, northern China, into trial operation.

"Next year, it plans to open offices in Hong Kong and Macau as springboards to the international market," the newspaper said.

The decision to allow companies nationwide to list shares is

expected to increase competition between Shanghai and Shenzhen for the role of China's number one bourse.

Shanghai, China's largest city and one-time industrial hub, is being touted as the new "dragon's head" of development for all of central China, while Shenzhen, just over the border from Hong Kong, benefits from close contact with the British colony and large inflows of foreign capital.

During the past year, the number of listed shares in Shanghai and Shenzhen increased to 70 from fewer than 20 in 1991. Some 16 shares are "B" shares targeted at overseas investors.

The total value of stocks in the two bourses is more than 100 billion yuan (\$18 billion), and the transaction volume for all of 1992 is expected to reach 100 billion yuan (\$18 billion), nearly 30 times 1991's figure, the agency said.

The predicted revenue short-fall, combined with a sharp devaluation of the rial incorporated in the draft Mr. Rafsanjani presented to parliament three weeks ago, would raise inflationary pressures in the next Iranian year starting March 21.

Iran's IRNA news agency said the draft estimated oil revenue, Iran's main source of hard currency, at \$17.9 billion — compared with the current year's projection of \$16.5 billion.

Mr. Shahroodi said the figure was based on an average price of \$17 per barrel "while now during the winter peak it is \$16."

And it assumed exports of 2.7 million barrels per day, a level Iran had touched in the past month but was unlikely to be able to maintain in view of increasing sales by other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, he said.

Prem Shankar Jha, an economist and former newspaper editor, agreed that shares had to be sold to the public to meet the target but said there was a lack of funds in the market.

He said a \$1.2 billion stock market and the spate of new issues had dried up funds and the government could hold off selling more shares in state firms until it unveiled the next fiscal year's budget in February.

"It could be a reformist budget which will renew investor confidence in the economy," he said.

Bankers and brokers have said companies will raise about 100 billion rupees (\$3.5 billion) from new issues in the six months ending on March 31.

"A scheme to offer shares to the public has to be worked out," Mr. Panandikar said of the government plan.

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In the previous round in October, 264.2 million shares were offered for sale but bids for only 128.7 million shares were accepted.

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Prem Shankar Jha, an economist and former newspaper editor, agreed that shares had to be sold to the public to meet the target but said there was a lack of funds in the market.

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## Bosnian Muslims wary of peace plan

President raises objections to Owen-Vance proposal

GENEVA (R) — Bosnia's Muslim-led government raised objections Sunday to an international peace plan for the republic, saying it would enshrine ethnic division and lead to more bloodshed.

Mediator Lord Owen warned of an upsurge of fighting if face-to-face negotiations that started Saturday between the warring Muslim, Serb and Croat communities failed.

The government said in a statement of the plan that it "does not accept the constitutional institutionalisation of the ethnic division of Bosnia-Herzegovina...."

It declared: "This approach lies at the foundation of the (Serb) aggression and ethnic cleansing and will not stop, but only generates resumed Sunday."

The statement was issued as Bosnia's Muslim president, Alija Izetbegovic, had his first face-to-face bilateral talks with rebel Serb leader Radovan Karadzic since the conflict in the former Yugoslav republic erupted nine months ago.

Both were stern-faced as they went into the meeting, chaired by European Community (EC) representative Owen and his fellow mediator Cyrus Vance, appointed by the United Nations.

The talks, due to last until Tuesday and resume a week later, are widely regarded as a final chance of averting international

intervention that could wreck any hopes for peace.

"All the signs are that fighting will be extremely ferocious in the aftermath of a failed conference," Lord Owen told a news conference Sunday.

Lord Owen and Mr. Vance presented the plan for discussion at the first direct negotiations between the three parties.

Under the proposals, Bosnia would be divided into 10 autonomous provinces with about half the country formally assigned to the country's powerful Serbs.

The three sides, represented by Mr. Izetbegovic, his nominal Croat ally Mate Boban, and Mr. Karadzic were asked to submit any objections before negotiations resumed Sunday.

The Bosnian government delegation submitted a list of objections to mediators.

It rejected a proposal to make Sarajevo an "open city" under the joint control of Muslims, Serbs and Croats and asked for a map delineating 10 autonomous regions in post-war Bosnia to be redrawn.

Mr. Izetbegovic has been careful not to reject the Vance and Owen plan outright and risk being blamed for sabotaging the Geneva talks.

"It's a fair plan for negotiation but it needs many, many corrections," he said of the plan. Sim-



Bosnian refugees demonstrate outside the Palais de Nations where the three warring committees of Bosnia-Herzegovina are holding their first face-to-face meeting (AFP photo)

Nations where the three warring committees of

Bosnia-Herzegovina are holding their first face-to-face meeting (AFP photo)

heavy snow.

But cold weather and the interruption to aid distribution caused by war was taking its own toll.

Bosnian radio reported late Saturday that seven people had died from cold and hunger in Srebrenica, a Muslim town in eastern Bosnia surrounded by Serbs and reached only by difficult U.N. aid convoys.

In the nearby village of Konjevic Polje and Cerska, hunger and cold were also claiming victims among more than 40,000 refugees who had crowded in and had not received any aid.

## START II is latest in line of historic arms accords

MOSCOW (R) — The arms reduction treaty signed Sunday, described by President George Bush as the most significant arms reduction treaty ever, will slash nuclear arsenals by more than two-thirds.

It brings Russia back to 1970s weapons levels and the United States back to the 1960s. The two military superpowers now have approximately 21,000 atomic warheads between them.

The new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) accord obliges both sides to reduce their strategic arsenals to 3,000-3,500 warheads by Jan. 1, 2003 at the latest.

All land-based systems with multiple warheads — including the 10-warhead Russian SS-18 missile — are to be eliminated.

START-II builds on a long history of arms accords and arms summits between Moscow and Washington, including several other major pacts achieved during Mr. Bush's tenure:

— July 30-31, 1991 — Mr. Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev meet in Moscow, sign the first Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-I) reducing stockpiles of long-range nuclear weapons by as much as 30 per cent.

— Nov. 19, 1990 — Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev meet in Paris for a diplomatic summit to sign with other world leaders the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty making historic cuts in East-West conventional forces.

— December 1987 — President Ronald Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev meet in Washington and sign a treaty to destroy Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF).

— June 1979 — President Jimmy Carter and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev meet in Vienna and sign the second Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT-II) limiting nuclear missiles, bombers and cruise missiles. The treaty is never ratified by the U.S. Senate but is informally observed by both sides until late 1986.

— June-July 1974 — In Moscow, the two sides will cut the number of warheads on submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) to a level of 1,700-1,750 units;

— Limits are to be imposed on the number of warheads with which heavy bombers on each side can be equipped, varying from 750 to 1,250 units of any type;

— Heavy bombers will be subject to a "real counting" of the number of warheads with which they are equipped to carry according to the type of aircraft involved;

— Each side has the right to reassess up to 100 heavy bombers for non-nuclear tasks. These aircraft will not be counted in the overall fixed levels.

## Scientist claims Kennedy shot from rear

NARRAGANSETT, Rhode Island (R) — The home movie of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy reveals that he was shot in the head from the rear — not from the front — as several assassination theories claim, a scientist said Saturday.

University of Rhode Island chemist Kenneth Rahn said he analysed the dramatic film by Abraham Zapruder and found that at the instant Mr. Kennedy was hit — a moment marked by the cloud of blood that appears around the face — the president's head snapped forward 6.5 centimetres.

It is not until a fraction of a second later, after the bullet passed through Mr. Kennedy's skull, that the president began to lurch backwards and to the right, he said.

That movement has convinced many people that the fatal shot must have come from a grassy knoll to Mr. Kennedy's right.

But Mr. Rahn, who usually studies the path of pollution

particles in the atmosphere, said the laws of physics make it impossible for a bullet to move a target after it has finished passing through.

Mr. Kennedy's backward lurch does not begin until about a 10th of a second after the bullet passed through, Mr. Rahn said, a delay consistent with the time it would take for reflexes to make his body jump back involuntarily.

Mr. Rahn became intrigued by the assassination movie after watching director Oliver Stone's controversial film "J.F.K."

"There's no doubt that Oliver Stone believed," that the fatal shot came from the front "and now there's no doubt we blew it big time," said Mr. Rahn.

Mr. Rahn said it is still possible there was more than one assassin.

If other assassins pulled the trigger, he said, there is no convincing evidence their shots made any difference.

Mr. Rahn said his analysis required little more than a basic background in physics, a laser-disk version of "J.F.K." — which permitted the detailed, frame-by-frame analysis of the Zapruder film — and tracing paper to compare the motion of Mr. Kennedy's head to immobile objects in the scene.

## Cable break foils robot's descent into volcano

WASHINGTON (R) — A robot's descent into a fiery Antarctic volcano to determine the makeup of its molten crater and the makeup of its molten crater was scrubbed Saturday after the fibre optic cable guiding the device broke, a mission spokesman said.

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— Land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) with multiple warheads are to be eliminated;

— Each side will cut the number of warheads on submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) to a level of 1,700-1,750 units;

— Heavy bombers will be subject to a "real counting" of the number of warheads with which they are equipped to carry according to the type of aircraft involved;

— Each side has the right to reassess up to 100 heavy bombers for non-nuclear tasks. These aircraft will not be counted in the overall fixed levels.

which Dante was to determine the makeup of the volcano's molten crater and its gases, as well as test if a similar eight-legged remote control robot could explore the Moon and Mars.

It was hoped Dante's efforts would help determine the makeup of the gases the bubbling volcano throws up and how they might affect earth's atmosphere.

Scientists said no way had yet been found to analyse them at their molten source.

They think the gases from Erebus and other volcanoes in the region might contribute to the growing ozone hole over the Antarctic, which allows increased cancer-causing ultraviolet rays to reach the Earth's surface.

The robot was named Dante for the poet Dante Alighieri, whose Divine Comedy's most known section is "The Inferno."

In it, the 14th century Italian described a descent into Erebus, the mythological hell.

## Cash takes on political hue in African conflicts

By Gill Tudor  
Reuter

GBARNGA, Liberia — Pull out the wrong kind of dollars and you face arrest or maybe worse.

Mind your shillings in Mogadishu. And if you're accepting one of Zaire's new five-million-Zaire banknotes, make sure the opposition isn't watching.

Cash has taken on a political hue in African countries riven by war or political strife.

In Liberia, five-dollar currency notes in circulation before the start of the three-year-old civil war are now legal tender only in areas held by Charles Taylor's rebel National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL).

The green notes, obviously modelled on U.S. currency, are known as JJs because they bear a portrait of Liberia's first president, J.J. Roberts.

On the other side of the lines, Monrovia's interim government introduced new five-

dollar notes last January to crack down on the circulation of stolen money.

Most of Liberia's banks were looted in 1990 at the height of the war, and the interim government feared millions of dollars' worth of stolen currency was being stored abroad, ready to be shipped back at an opportune time.

The new "liberty" notes bear the Liberian coat of arms in place of Roberts with the national motto "The Love of Liberty Brought Us Here," but are otherwise identical to the old ones.

Mr. Taylor, who controls most of Liberia including its lucrative rubber, timber and iron ore resources, immediately outlawed liberty dollars in his territory.

NPFL officials say anyone caught trying to pass the new notes in what Mr. Taylor calls "Greater Liberia" would be arrested for economic sabotage. No cases have yet been brought but the punishment would be tough.

In exchange terms JJs are stronger than liberty dollars, trading at around 7.50 to the U.S. dollar compared with about 25 to the U.S. dollar for the capital's cash.

NPFL officials say this reflects more confidence in their currency and also point out that JJs are in fixed supply, whereas the interim government can print more of its new notes.

An almost identical situation has held on the other side of the continent in the Somali capital Mogadishu, divided by clan warfare into two main zones until a recent truce.

In the south, held by warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed, people use the orange and purple 1,000-shilling notes in circulation before dictator Mohammad Siad Barre was overthrown in January 1991.

The northern sector of the wrecked capital, controlled by General Aideed's main rival Ali Mahdi Mohammad, uses new 20 shilling notes which were apparently ordered by

Siad Barre two years ago but flown in from the British printers last June.

Furious that the money might bolster his rival and undermine his own finances, Gen. Aideed declared that anyone found using the new notes in his zone would be executed.

The delivery of several tonnes of crisp cash also caused a major row between Gen. Aideed and the United Nations, briefly endangering efforts to ease Africa's worst famine this century.

The warlord threatened to stop deployment of U.N. peacekeeping observers after the notes were flown into northern Mogadishu on a maverick Russian plane, which was previously chartered by the U.N. and still carried its markings.

Activists have made bank-note bonfires. Undaunted by its critics, the Bank of Zaire has announced it will introduce a 10-million-Zaire note soon.

arch-enemy, reformist Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi.

The pro-Mobutu Central Bank of Zaire issued the new high denomination note — worth less than \$3.00 — on Dec. 1.

Mr. Tshisekedi promptly declared it was not legal tender, accusing Mr. Mobutu of deliberately stoking hyper-inflation to undermine reforms which could end the president's 27-year rule.

Zaire's economy is on its knees after years of corruption and mismanagement, compounded by army-led looting last year that devastated several cities.

Opposition supporters have boycotted the new notes, despite a chronic shortage of money in Zaire's cash-starved banks.

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## Moellemann resigns

BONN (R) — German Economics Minister Juergen Moellemann announced his resignation Sunday after acknowledging that he had sent letters on official note-paper promoting a product manufactured by a cousin.

Mr. Moellemann, a member of the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP), told a news conference he was not guilty of any wrongdoing but was stepping down to avoid further damaging controversy.

"In view of the importance which I attach to the office of economics minister, especially at this time, I believe it would not be compatible with my understanding of the office to burden the exercise of the office with the public rows that would probably be unavoidable if I remained in the ministry," he said.

"I therefore informed the chancellor, (Helmut Kohl), this morning that I will submit my resignation."

Christian Democrat leader Kohl, whose relationship with Mr. Moellemann was not always smooth, accepted the resignation but did not express regret.

"I respect his decision and I thanked him for his work in the government in the last 10 years," Mr. Kohl said in a short statement, adding that he had asked Mr. Moellemann to stay on until a successor was appointed.

The chancellor is expected to announce long-planned cabinet reshuffle later in January, which marks a mid-point in the centre-right cabinet's four-year term.

In the weekly news magazine Der Spiegel said in a report released Saturday that Mr. Moellemann's probable successor would be Birgit Breuel, head of the Trentham privatisation agency which is selling off former state-owned firms in East Germany.

The government denied Der Spiegel's assertion that Mr. Kohl planned to drop Finance Minister Theo Waigel in the reshuffle but did not comment on the possibility of Mr. Breuel joining the government.

In an apparent acknowledgement that his career in the first division of German politics was at an end, Mr. Moellemann, 47,

also announced that he would not seek election as FDP leader.

Openly ambitious, he had long made no secret of his desire to succeed Otto Lambsdorff on his retirement in 1993.

Mr. Moellemann's withdrawal leaves Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel as the strongest contender for leadership of a small but influential party which has been the kingmaker of German politics for most of the post-war period.

Mr. Moellemann faced mounting pressure to resign after he admitted two weeks ago that letters bearing his signature were sent to leading supermarket chains recommending a security system for shopping trolleys produced by his cousin's company.

After originally saying the letters were sent without his knowledge by an aide using pre-signed blank paper, Mr. Moellemann changed his account of events at Sunday's news conference.

He said he had signed the letters personally as part of a pile of documents submitted for his signature and blamed overwork for his failure to realise what he was signing.

He had given his support to the project because the trolley devices were to be manufactured by handicapped people, but this fact had unfortunately been omitted from the letters.

Mr. Moellemann said he had been in good faith that his first account of events was accurate and now blamed himself for not looking into the affair thoroughly enough.

"I did not lie," he said emphatically.

But he added: "I certainly made mistakes in the course of my work and I regret this. But anyone who works hard and has to make a lot of decisions also makes mistakes."

Mr. Moellemann is a teacher by profession who had no business experience when he was appointed economics minister in Mr. Kohl's conservative-led cabinet in January 1991.